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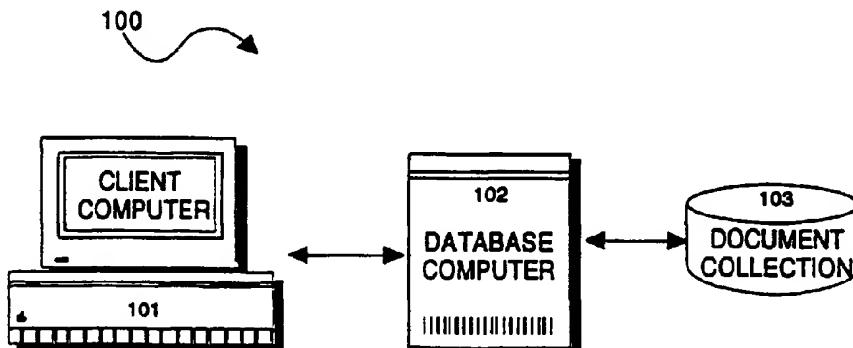
EP 0 813 158 A3

(12)

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NL PT SE(30) Priority: **14.06.1996 US 661335**(71) Applicant: **Excite, Inc.**  
Mountain View, California 94043 (US)(72) Inventor: **Spencer, Graham**  
Cupertino, California 95014 (US)(74) Representative: **Liesegang, Eva**  
Forrester & Boehmert,  
Franz-Josef-Strasse 38  
80801 München (DE)**(54) System and method for accelerated query evaluation of very large full-text databases**

(57) A system, method, and various software products provide for improved information retrieval in very large document databases through the use of a predetermined static cache. The static cache includes for terms that appear in a large number of documents, a plurality of documents ordered by a contribution that the term makes to the document score of the document. The contribution is a scalar measure of the influence of the term in the computed document score. The contribution reflects both the within document frequency and the between document frequency of the term. In addition, the static cache includes for each term a lookup

table that references selected entries for the term in an inverted index. Queries to the database are then processed by first traversing the static cache and obtaining the contribution information therefrom and computing the document score from this information. Additional term frequency information for other terms in the query is obtained by looking up the document in the lookup tables of the other query terms, and obtaining the term frequency information for such terms from the inverted index, or by searching the contribution caches of the query terms.

**FIGURE 1**



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 10 9680

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	PERSIN M: "DOCUMENT FILTERING FOR FAST RANKING" SIGIR '94, DUBLIN, JULY 3 - 6, 1994, no. CONF. 17, 3 July 1994, pages 339-348, XP000475332 CROFT W B; VAN RIJSBERGEN C J (EDITORS) * abstract * * paragraph 2.2 * * paragraph 3.2-3.3 * ---	1, 3, 5-31	G06F17/30
A	AALBERSBERG I J: "A DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL MODEL BASED ON TERM FREQUENCY RANKS" SIGIR '94, DUBLIN, JULY 3 - 6, 1994, no. CONF. 17, 3 July 1994, pages 163-172, XP000475321 CROFT W B; VAN RIJSBERGEN C J (EDITORS) * the whole document *	1-31	
A	WONG W Y P ET AL: "IMPLEMENTATIONS OF PARTIAL DOCUMENT RANKING USING INVERTED FILES" INFORMATION PROCESSING & MANAGEMENT (INCORPORATING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY), vol. 29, no. 5, September 1993, pages 647-669, XP002035616 * the whole document *	1-31	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) G06F
A	US 5 263 159 A (MITSUI KINICHI) 16 November 1993 * abstract * * column 1, line 1 - column 2, line 47 * -----	1-31	
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	26 February 1999	Katerbau, R	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 10 9680

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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26-02-1999

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82